

## CHAPTER V

### EFFECT OF WAR ON THE VITAL NEEDS OF PEOPLES

DIFFICULTIES in the satisfaction of the vital needs of populations, interruption or stagnation in the employment of the productive forces of the population—these are the factors which will influence statesmen against undertaking war, or if war be undertaken, these are the factors which will at one moment or another decidedly veto its continuance. For certain states yet another danger appears (as one phantom hastens after the other in the vision of Macbeth), that is, the danger of revolutionary movements, not only political but also socialistic.

In considering the effect of a future war it is essential to examine the manner in which it will react on the needs and condition of the people. If famine is not to find states unprepared, some account of the dangers which follow on war must be taken. The consideration of this question may be useful in another way. By revealing with what a tremendous influence a great war may react on the conditions of peoples, it must result in a tranquillising conviction that in our time to decide on war without grave hesitation will be impossible.

#### I.

Those countries which in times of peace import large quantities of grain and other necessary products will stand in a particularly critical condition. Supply by means of railroad will be extremely difficult, and indeed there will

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be no country whence to import, since every European country will be compelled to shift for itself. Of the two countries which serve as the granaries of Europe, Hungary will be forced to place her superfluity at the disposal of Austria, while Russia will be deprived of the possibility of supplying her friends with grain, and will not wish to supply her enemies.

Transport by sea from America, India, and Australia

### *Home Production and Import of Wheat, Barley, and Rye.*

	Home Production in Thousands of Tons.	1888-91.			1894-95.		
		Import in Thousands of Tons.		Import in Percentage Relation to Home Production.	Import in Thousands of Tons		Import in Percentage Relation to Home Production.
		From Russia.	From other Countries.		From Russia.	From other Countries.	
Germany	10,151	1254	853	20.7	1773	1330	30.5
France .	9,852	295	656	9.6	448	635	11.0
England	3,672	721	2770	95.0	1885	3493	146.4
Italy . .	2,410	361	262	25.8	535	83	25.7
Austria .	6,016	—	28	0.5	47	62	1.8

will become impossible, as it is unquestionable that in the beginning of war privateering will be carried on, interrupting communication with trans-oceanic countries, or at the very best making transport so difficult that freight and insurance will rise very high, and thus the price of trans-oceanic supplies will rise prohibitively. It is enough to remember that in the time of the Crimean war, when import from Russia alone ceased, the price of wheat in England rose 80 per cent. In the American Civil War the operations of a single Southern

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cruiser, the *Alabama*, were enough to cause a perceptible rise in the price of wheat.

Thus it becomes necessary to determine the degrees of peril to which in the event of a great war the different states of Europe will be subjected in the feeding of their populations.

A calculation of the times in the course of which the population of each state may exist on the local production of wheat, barley, and rye can be made from the table given on the preceding page.\*

If on the foundation of these figures we calculate the number of days on which food will be lacking after the exhaustion of local products we find the following results :

	1888-91.	1894-95.
In Germany . . . .	69 days	102 days.
„ France . . . .	32 „	36 „
„ England . . . .	178 „	274 „
„ Italy . . . .	76 „	75 „
„ Austria . . . .	2 „	7 „

(1888-91)	(1894-95)
69	102
32	36
178	274
76	75
2	7

The greatest danger will consequently threaten England, which imports the largest quantity of grain, by far the greatest part from trans-oceanic countries. Germany and

\* Statistics from "Statistisches Jahrbuch für das Deutsche Reich," "Annuaire Statistique de la France," "Oesterreichisches Statistisches Handbuch," "Annuario Statistico Italiano," "Obzor Vneshni Torgovli," &c.

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Italy will find themselves in a better, although still in a difficult position. Germany imports foreign grain, for the greater part Russian, for 2-3 months, and Italy for about 2½ months. France will suffer only from a month's deficiency, while Austria may be considered as fully supplied.

The most favourable position will be occupied by Russia, which with her export trade interrupted will not only not suffer from deficiency but will possess so much superfluous grain that her population can in no way suffer. The export from Russia of wheat, barley, and rye in the course of the periods considered shows a yearly average of 3,967,213 tons, or a superfluity after the satisfaction of local requirements of 21.6 per cent.

In addition to wheat, barley, and rye, we find a considerable deficiency in oats; for all the states of Central Europe mentioned, with the exception of Austria, produce less oats than is required for local needs.

*Production and Import of Oats.*

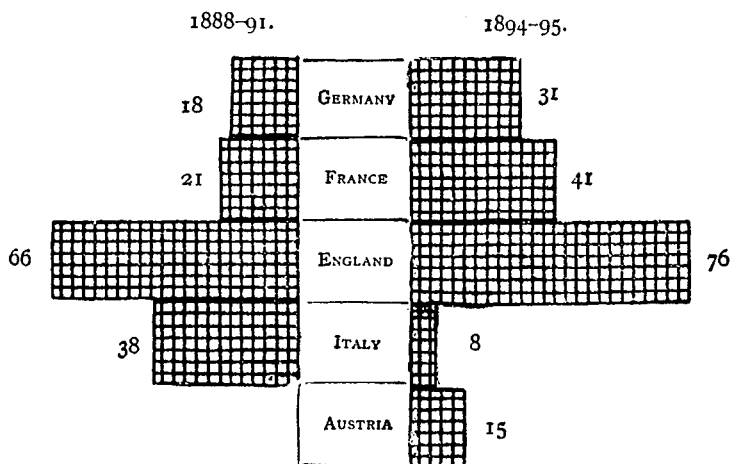
	Home Production in Thousands of Tons.	1888-91.			1894-95.		
		Import in Thousands of Tons.		Import constitutes Percentage of Production.	Import in Thousands of Tons.		Import constitutes Percentage of Production.
		From Russia.	From other Countries.		From Russia.	From other Countries.	
Germany .	4759	183	4	3.9	263	63	6.8
France .	3279	131	82	6.5	227	187	12.6
England .	3065	426	262	22.4	625	163	25.7
Italy .	213	13	11	11.5	—	5	2.3
Austria .	2792	—	—	—	66	48	4.1

From which appears the following deficiency of home production :

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	1888-91.	1894-95.
In Germany . . .	18 days	31 days
„ France . . .	21 „	41 „
„ England . . .	66 „	76 „
„ Italy . . .	38 „	8 „
„ Austria . . .	— „	15 „

*Number of Days on which Oats would be Lacking.*



Russia, on the contrary, yearly exports 836,065 tons of oats, or a superfluity of 16.7 per cent. after the satisfaction of her own needs.

Such deficiencies of grain, of course, are not everywhere the same. In each country there are localities which produce sufficient of these products. In other localities, on the other hand, the need to import grain arises immediately after harvest.

The following table shows, for instance, the distribution of harvests in Germany:

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District.	Superfluous Local Production, comparatively with the Requirements for One Inhabitant, in Hundredweights	Deficiency of Local Production, comparatively with the Requirements for One Inhabitant, in Hundredweights
Posen . . . . .	1.78	—
Pr. Saxony . . . . .	1.63	—
Bavaria . . . . .	0.84	—
E. and W. Prussia . . . . .	0.57	—
Hesse-Cassel . . . . .	0.21	—
Average for all Prussia . . . . .	—	0.65
Silesia . . . . .	—	0.624
Westphalia . . . . .	—	1.888
Brandenburg (and Berlin) . . . . .	—	1.844
Hesse-Nassau . . . . .	—	2.06
K. Saxony . . . . .	—	2.43
Wurtemberg . . . . .	—	2.834
Pri. Rhine Provinces . . . . .	—	2.892
G. Duchy Baden . . . . .	—	2.938
Other parts of the Empire . . . . .	0.4	—

Thus the harvest appreciably exceeds the demand in Prussian Saxony, the kingdom of Bavaria, Eastern and Western Prussia—that is, in the Eastern territories of Germany near the Russian frontier. A considerable superfluity is also found in Hesse Cassel and in other parts of the Empire which for the sake of brevity are not set out separately. In all the other provinces the demand exceeds the supply, and in certain parts of the empire—as in Brandenburg, Baden, Wurtemberg, the Rhine provinces, and Saxony—by more than half.

And as in these parts of the empire agriculture occupies about 42 per cent. of the population, agriculturists through dread of famine will hold their stocks of provisions for themselves, and for the remainder of the population it will be necessary on the very day after harvest to draw grain from other localities.

In times of peace the industrial districts may import grain from America, Austria, Roumania, and Russia, and even from the eastern provinces of Prussia where a

surplus exists. With the declaration of war, for the reasons we have indicated, this import must cease. To rely on supplies from Austria and Roumania is out of the question when we consider local needs and decreased efficiency of the railway system resulting from military operations. To avert famine, even temporarily, the eastern provinces might be drawn upon, but in consequence of its proximity to the theatre of war, grain there will be bought up for the use of the army.

Mr. V. I. Hedzvetski, in a remarkable article on "The Struggle with Famine in a Future War," comes to the conclusion that in the granaries of the future base of the German army near the Russian frontier there will be but a month's or a month and a half's provisions for 960,000 men and 220,000 horses. But on the figures of General Leer we find that the number of men to be fed will amount to 1,200,000. And as armies at the theatre of war will not be in a condition to supply their needs from local sources, it is plain that the above-mentioned stores must be constantly replenished, if not for the whole number of men mentioned, at least for the greater part.

Even if Posen and Eastern Prussia were in a condition after the satisfaction of military requirements to distribute part of their superfluity among the neighbouring provinces which require grain, which is very unlikely in view of the demands of the commissariat, still prices must so rise that among the poorer classes famine will be inevitable.

To form a general idea of the commotion which war would cause in Germany, we must take into account not only average figures of production, import and demand, but also the operation of undetermined forces, the influence of which may be disastrous. The very fear of need, owing to the impossibility of drawing supplies from the usual sources, may not only appreciably raise prices, but even call forth a panic. In the famine of 1891 we had a living example of the fact that, notwithstanding the full possibility of import of corn by sea and land, the dread of need may have immense influence on the rise of prices.

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It is necessary also to take into account the fact that between the harvests of different years a considerable difference exists. If we take the average yearly harvest in the period 1885-1889 in different countries, in millions of bushels, at a hundred, then for separate years in each country we will find the following departure from the average :

	Average Harvest in 1885-89 in Millions of Bushels taken at 100.	Harvest 1885-89.			
		Maximum.		Minimum.	
		Year.	Per Cent.	Year.	Per Cent.
Russia .	1725.7	1887	114.7	1889	86.2
Germany .	701.8	1886	106.2	1889	91.9
France .	701.8	1886	102.6	1888	96.6
Austria- Hungary	692.9	1887	108.4	1889	87.1
Gt. Britain	312.8	1885	104.5	1887	95.4
Italy .	221.2	1887	105.5	1888	91.9
Roumania	140.9	1887	135.5	1885-86	77.7
Servia .	25.9	1888	131.9	1885) 1886) 1887) 1889)	91.5

From these statistics we see that the departure in Germany amounts to 6 per cent. above the average and to 8 per cent. below it. In other countries the difference is still more striking, as for instance in Russia and Austria, where in consequence of a lower culture, harvests are more unequal. In Russia this difference amounts on both sides to 14 per cent., while in Austria the difference amounts to 8 per cent. on the good side and 13 per cent. on the bad.

All these conditions: the small production in comparison with the demand, the cessation of import from abroad, the indispensable supply of millions of soldiers who consume much more than when fed at their own expense at home,



and finally, the efforts of the prosperous part of the population to guarantee themselves by storage against the danger of famine—all these conditions must inevitably give rise to vast speculations in wheat which will cause an unprecedented rise in prices.

The disasters which will take place in consequence of the want of bread in time of war have not failed to attract the attention of statesmen and economists. Still this question, notwithstanding its gravity, has up till to-day remained an abstract one, and has never permeated to the minds of the people.

In the German parliament the problem was raised more than once, but was not considered publicly, and each time its solution was entrusted to the consideration of a secret committee. The Government revealed to this committee its project for furnishing Germany with corn from Egypt through the Suez Canal, through Italy by the Swiss and Austrian railways, and partly from Hungary and Roumania. How vain these hopes would prove to be might easily be shown by an examination of the probable condition of maritime communications in time of war. In any case, even if under the protection of the Italian and English fleets it were possible to import grain through the Suez Canal, the risk and costliness of such an undertaking would cause so great a rise in the price of bread that the difficulty would in no way be surmounted.

In view of this, other means for the solution of the question have been devised. Thus the author of the brochure *Auf der Schwelle des Kriegs*, on the supposition that war may break out suddenly with France, comes to the conclusion that at present only three Great Powers may be considered independent as relates to the feeding of their population—the United States, Austria-Hungary, and Russia. Germany after the stoppage of the export of bread from Russia would find herself in the position of a besieged fortress. What would her position be in case of a prolonged war when home production would be diminished, and transport from oversea would be threatened by the powerful fleets of her enemies?

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The author of this pamphlet proposes to found state granaries, not only for the supply of the army, but also as a guarantee against famine among the civil population. Such granaries would have the further advantage of serving as a corrective against exceptional rises in price.

But from the statistics given above as to the quantity of grain needed yearly, it is easy to see the difficulties which present themselves in the execution of this project. The quantity of provisions which it would be necessary to hold and renew would require such great yearly expenditure that the consent of parliaments would be extremely difficult to obtain.

### II.

The deficiency of bread is but one of the difficulties with which nations will have to contend upon entering upon war. A similar deficiency will appear in many other necessities of life. Of these meat is the chief, and it is necessary to consider the relations between the local supply and the quantity imported. The following table sets forth the relation :

	Trade in Meat in Tons (1000 Kilogrammes).			
	Import.	Export.	Superfluity.	Deficiency.
Austria . . .	328	8,820	8492	--
Russia . . .	20	1,623	1603	--
Italy . . .	123	1,443	1320	--
Germany . . .	28,787	16,721	--	12,066
France . . .	20,262	2,016	--	18,246

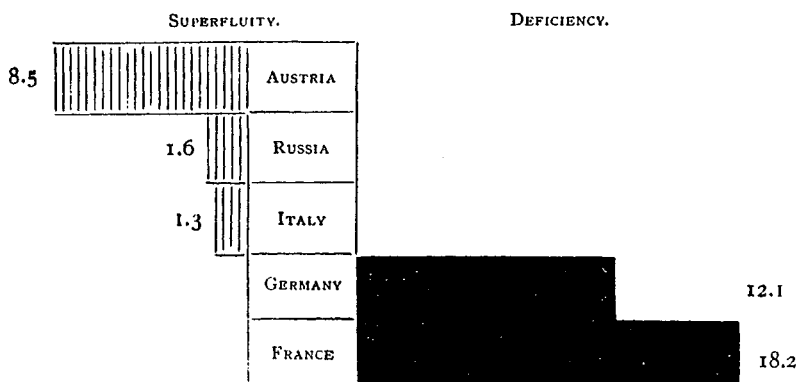
From this it appears that Austria, Russia, and Italy produce more meat than they require, while Germany and France are compelled to supply their deficiencies by import. In Germany in 1890 the import exceeded the export by 12,066 tons, in France by 18,246 tons. Thus

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those countries which produce sufficient grain are also guaranteed against deficiency of meat. In the event of a prolonged war, Germany and France will suffer from a deficiency in both the chief necessities of life.

It is true that both in Germany and in France the stock of cattle is so great that it seems possible by increasing the number killed to compensate for the diminution in import, but in view of the high value of the cattle raised

*Superfluity or Deficiency of Meat in Thousands of Tons.*



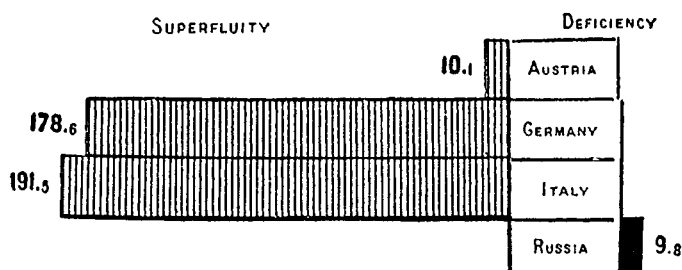
in those countries, the cost of meat will be raised to an extreme height so as to compensate the producer.

In relation to salt Russia is in a less favourable position than the Western Powers.

—	Trade in Salt in Tons (1000 Kilogrammes).			
	Import.	Export.	Superfluity.	Deficiency.
Austria . .	—	10,098	10,098	—
Germany . .	20,967	199,607	178,640	—
Italy . .	—	191,475	191,475	—
Russia . .	17,246	7,475	—	9771

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*Superfluity or Deficiency of Salt in Thousands of Tons.*

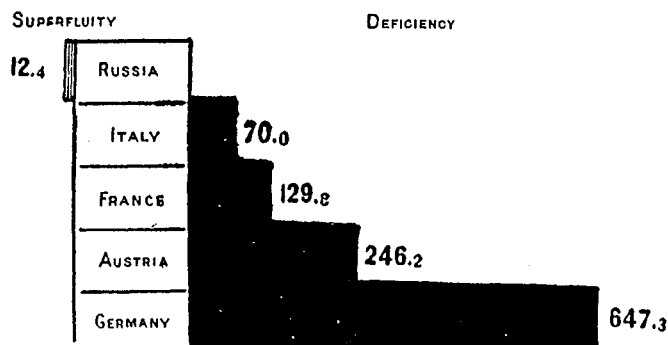


But the deficiency of salt in Russia of 9771 tons yearly may be supplied, with but an insignificant increase in price, by the increase of local production.

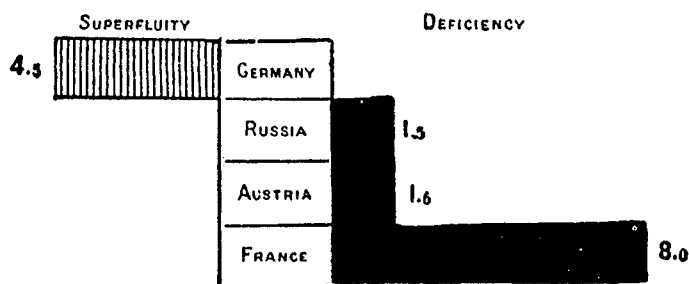
As relates to the supply of kerosene, which has now become a product of the first importance, Russia is in an enviable position :

—	Trade in Kerosene in Tons (1000 Kilogrammes).			
	Import.	Export.	Superfluity.	Deficiency.
Russia . . .	—	12,459	12,459	—
Austria . . .	252,459	6,230	—	246,229
Italy . . .	70,000	—	—	70,000
France . . .	129,770	—	—	129,770
Germany . . .	647,295	—	—	647,295

The known richness of the naphtha springs of the Caucasus makes it possible to export a considerable quantity of kerosene. Germany, Italy, and France all import kerosene from abroad. The import into Austria is also considerable, although local production (in Galicia) grows constantly, and in a short time Austria may be fully supplied by local production.

*Superfluity or Deficiency of Kerosene in Thousands of Tons.*

The question of stone coal presents itself as follows. The net import, after deducting the export, is, in France, 8049 thousand tons, in Austria 1623 thousand tons, and in Russia 1525 thousand tons. The export of coal from Germany exceeds the import by 4492 thousand tons.

*Superfluity or Deficiency of Stone Coal in Thousands of Tons.*

Thus in regard to coal Germany finds herself in the most favourable position, after her coming Austria, which

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may supply decreased import by increased local working, although, in consequence of the stoppage of many factories, this, in all probability, would not be required.

In Russia the supply of coal is thus obtained : From the Dombrovsk mines about 2475 thousand tons, from the remaining mines 3754 thousand tons. In time of war the supply from the Dombrovsk mines might cease, but, on the other hand, the demand would inevitably diminish owing to the stoppage of factories. A considerable part of the Russian population employs wood for heating purposes, and there will be no difficulty in this respect.

As regards cotton, Russia is to a considerable extent guaranteed by supply from Bokhara. Of wool, skins, and linen there will be no deficiency.

A grave question also arises whether all these countries will be in a position to renew their armaments and munitions of war. In this respect the majority of states are guaranteed. With the exception of Italy, Turkey, and Roumania, there exist everywhere immense factories for the production of arms and ammunition, so that in any case war will not be stopped through want of arms.

Thanks to the energetic measures taken by the government, the working and manufacture of iron and steel in Russia has grown uninterruptedly, as the following figures demonstrate :

	Production in Thousands of Tons.		
	Pig-iron.	Iron.	Steel.
1881 . . . .	460,000	286,071	287,678.6
1890 . . . .	908,035.7	424,286	371,250

This quantity of material is, of course, more than sufficient for military purposes. In an Imperial decree of October 1866 we find the following directions : "To cease for the future to give government orders abroad . . . and

all orders, both of the Ministry of War, the Ministry of Paths and Communications, and of the other departments of state to fulfil inside the country, notwithstanding the difficulties and inconveniences which may arise at first." As the result of this decision there arose a large number of factories furnished with the latest mechanism and machinery for the manufacture of articles of military equipment. It is enough to mention that even in 1880 out of 686 guns on the fleet, 498 were cast in the Obukovsk factory alone, and that these guns, as was demonstrated by test against armour, were in every way equal to the guns of Krupp. Thus the 12-inch gun, at a distance of 7000 feet, penetrated armour of a thickness of 12.6 inches, the 9-inch gun armour of a thickness of 6.59 inches, and the 6-inch gun armour of a thickness of 3.1 inches.

### III

It cannot be too often repeated that the disastrous consequences of war will be especially felt in countries with highly developed industries—that is, in Germany, France, and England. With the interruption of the ordinary communications, with the diminution in demand, and the approach of danger, factories, mines, and workshops, with the exception of those whose products are necessary for the equipment of armies, will be forced to discontinue working. The fathers of families, taken from their homes and sent to join the army at a few hours' notice, will leave their families, in the majority of cases, unprovided against the needs of the morrow.

The following statistics are interesting as giving an idea how far the population of Germany is guaranteed against hunger by the income it receives in time of peace :

	Millions of Pounds Sterling.		Per Cent.
Insufficient incomes amount to	. 16.3	<i>i.e.</i>	22.1
Small                   "                   "	. 22.53	"	30.5
Limited               "               "	. 13.345	"	18.1

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	Millions of Pounds Sterling.	Per Cent.
Moderate incomes amount to	. 12.33	<i>i.e.</i> 16.7
Large       "       "	. 6.555	" 8.9
Very large   "       "	. 2.69	" 3.7

It is unquestionable that these incomes "insufficient" for supplying the first necessities of life, and "small" and "limited" incomes represent the earnings on which an immense proportion of the population lives, and that the stoppage or even the diminution of income will place this proportion in a critical position. The earnings of those in these classes constitute more than 70 per cent. of the entire income of the people. The class which enjoys a "moderate" income can only to a small extent help those in need in the moment of danger. There remain the rich classes, and on them must fall the chief duty of helping the majority. But the income of this class, with "large" and "very large" incomes, forms only £9,250,000, or 12½ per cent. of the whole income of the people. In what way can the incomes of the rich class compensate the majority of the population for the decrease by a considerable extent, a decrease of a half or even a third, of the incomes of that majority which constitute £52,175,000?

Is it possible that 12½ per cent. of the total income, even though it went entirely to the aid of the needy classes, could appreciably compensate the latter for the losses to which they would be subjected (70 per cent. of the total income of the people)? And this, when we bear in mind that the incomes of the rich themselves will be reduced in time of war?

As relates to the provision which the working classes in a time of crisis would find in their own savings, we must bear in mind that these savings are very inconsiderable. Here is the picture drawn by Dr. Von Schulze-Gävernitz in his work, "Der Grossbetrieb" (Leipzig, 1892). "In the great majority of cases the earnings hardly cover expenses, and very often a deficiency appears which is supplied by recourse to charity, often to prostitu-



tion, while in many cases families are compelled to endure privation and even hunger."

In the investigations of Chief Factory Inspector Vari-schoffer, issued by the Bavarian Government, it is explained that even in large manufactures (for instance, in chemical factories) the workers receive barely enough to satisfy the "physiological minimum" of existence. In the great industries wages hardly suffice for necessary food, which consists chiefly of potatoes and rye bread. But these earnings are nevertheless higher than those yielded by handicrafts and work at home. Under the most favourable circumstances the wages of workers are sufficient only for food, nothing remaining over. It is plain, therefore, that in a critical time savings cannot be counted upon.

The unfortunate fact must be noted that need will appear with especial force in those very localities in which there is a deficiency of grain, and where the supply of grain will present the greatest difficulties. In the kingdom of Saxony, as we have already seen, there is an average deficiency for each inhabitant of 267.3 lbs. of grain, or about 50 per cent. of the demand, while in that kingdom only 22.6 per cent. of the population lives by agriculture, and 77.3 per cent. by trade.

In the Rhine provinces we find a deficiency of 278.1 lbs. kilos of grain per inhabitant, or about 60 per cent. of the demand, while 65 per cent. of the population lives on incomes derived from trade and industry.

In addition, it must be borne in mind that the proportion of the population living by industry grows rapidly. In an inconsiderable period of time the industrial population of Germany has been quadrupled. This increase has already gone too far. The working forces newly appearing, competing ceaselessly with the old, lower the wages of the older workmen to an extreme level. Statistics witness that even now a great part of the workmen in Prussia, though working twelve or fifteen hours a day, earn extremely little.

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Industry.	Weekly Wages.
Glass and kerosene production . . . . .	15s. 9d.
Iron foundries . . . . .	14s. 8d.
Working of iron ore . . . . .	14s. 10d.
Cotton factories . . . . .	13s. 0d.
Chemical factories . . . . .	10s. 8d.
Spinning . . . . .	10s. 7d.
Cigar factories . . . . .	9s. 6d.
Preparation of agricultural products . . . . .	9s. 2d.
Milling of all kinds . . . . .	9s. 10d.

Taking these circumstances into consideration, we must conclude that in certain portions of Germany the Government, especially in view of the propagandas and tendencies which now operate among the masses, will not be able to remain indifferent to the needs of the population.

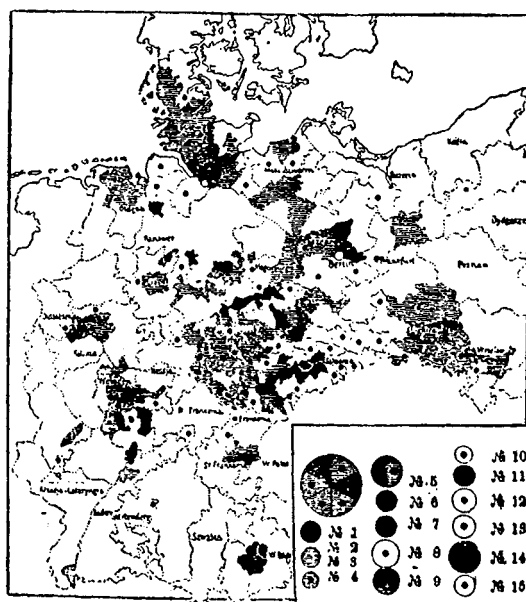
A war with the terrible methods of destruction now employed and in view of the masses of people which will be sent to the front may, in spite of the predictions of military authorities who prophesy years of struggle, prove to be short and decisive. But even in that event the danger for the present social order cannot be considered small.

By a very natural coincidence the greatest deficiency of food will be experienced in those localities where trade and industry are most highly developed—that is, in districts thoroughly permeated by socialism. A glance at the chart on the next page, which illustrates the voting for Socialists and *Freisinnigen* at the elections of 1890, is sufficient to confirm this statement. In the districts marked in black were elected for parliament Socialists (Socialdemocraten, Socialistes - democrates), in those lined Freethinkers (Deutschfreisinnig, progressivists), those with black dots indicate that Socialist candidates stood but were not elected.

In 1890 were elected for parliament:

Conservatives . . . . . 73 Adherents of the Govern- ment . . . . . 20 Freisinnigen . . . . . 108 Members of the Centre . 106 Poles . . . . . 16 Socialists . . . . . 35	Popular Party . . . . . 10 Wollfites . . . . . 11 Alsatians . . . . . 10 Dane . . . . . 1 Anti-semites . . . . . 5 Others . . . . . 2
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*Chart showing the Comparative Development of Socialists and Freethinkers in Germany according to the Elections of 1891.*



- |                |                |                          |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Berlin.     | 6. Magdeburg.  | 11. Bavaria.             |
| 2. Königsberg. | 7. Wiesbaden.  | 12. Saxony with Dresden. |
| 3. Dantzig.    | 8. Cologne.    | 13. Saxony with Leipzig. |
| 4. Stettin.    | 9. Düsseldorf. | 14. Hamburg.             |
| 5. Breslau.    | 10. Aachen.    | 15. Alsace and Lorraine. |

\*\*\* In the localities marked in black, Socialists were elected; in the shaded localities, Freethinkers; the black dots indicate socialist candidatures which failed.

Even if it be assumed that the Socialists and their adherents in the ranks of the army will fulfil their duties as other citizens fulfil them, still the question remains: Will disarmament be carried out as easily as armament? To answer this question definitely is impossible now. But before war is decided upon it is worth considering

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whether the most splendid successes can compensate for the dangers that hasten on the path of war.

In France the position will be somewhat better. Of 17,798,000 persons, whose incomes together constitute £900,000,000, almost five-sixths belong to the class of poor people whose incomes are quite inconsiderable :

	Persons.		Per Cent.
Working in industry, trade, and transport	3,835,000	<i>i.e.</i>	21.5
Serving for salaries . . . . .	1,132,000	"	6.4
Domestic servants . . . . .	1,950,000	"	11
Small producers, workers and subordinates whose incomes do not appreciably exceed the highest wages of workmen . . . . .	3,700,000	"	20.8
Total . . . . .	10,617,000	"	59.7

The incomes of the above-mentioned categories amount to £400,000,000. Agricultural labourers number 3,435,000, *i.e.*, 19.3 per cent. Their incomes, amounting to £80,000,000, are also not guaranteed.

No better will be the position of England, where the question of the feeding of the people has recently awakened great interest. The *National Review* quotes a speech of Sir Samuel Baker, in which we find an argument which touches closely upon our subject. "To such a degree have we become accustomed to have everything necessary for the support of life and uninterrupted work arrive in our ports in due time, that we cannot even imagine a different position. Yet there is not the slightest doubt that in the event of war with a naval power the price of wheat would rise greatly in England, and, reacting immediately on all industries, produce an unprecedented catastrophe. In her present state of defence, England has not the strength to guarantee the transport of provisions." Lord Charles Beresford, with similar confidence, declared that in time of war England could not count upon the supply from oversea of the necessities of life. Admiral Hornby,

presiding at a meeting with the object of presenting a petition to the Government on the subject of the taking of precautions against the stoppage of supplies, said "that if England gained several victories at sea, and the regular transport of provisions were still interrupted, it would be worse for the people than several defeats."

In Russia, at first sight, the position of the people in the case of war seems enviable; 86 per cent. of the population is engaged in agriculture. But, as the price of agricultural products is very low, the agricultural class earns an income amounting only to 52 per cent. of the general income, while in Germany an agricultural population of 37 per cent. earns 35 per cent. of the income, in France 42 per cent. of agriculturists earn 40 per cent. of the total income, and in Austria 49 per cent. of agriculturists earn 45 per cent. of the income.

But worse than this is the fact that savings in Russia are inconsiderable, and thus the consequences of war for Russia might be not less terrible than for other countries. Such a proposition is all the more probable since the poverty arising from war springs not only from direct losses, but from the disorganisation caused by the destruction of ordinary relations, and by the fall of values. To cover the expenditure on war all states will be compelled to take refuge in the raising of loans or the issue of paper money.

The price of all the necessities of life must grow, and the purchasing power of the inconsiderable savings possessed by the people will be greatly diminished.

All this leads to the conclusion that, *nolens volens*, governments will be forced to take on themselves the care of feeding the families of those serving with the army. The results of such an undertaking cannot be foreseen. If we suppose that governments will be forced to interfere in the regulation of prices, and to support the population, we must ask, will it be easy after the war to abandon this practice and re-establish the old order? And will not this moment of transition to the normal order of things be

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characterised by events similar to those which took place in France after the war of 1870-71?

The destitute position of the population in time of war may be extremely dangerous to social order if war be prolonged, and in the opinion of very authoritative military writers this is more than probable. In connection with this subject we may quote the opinion of General Leer: "Even with small armies, the years 1812-13-14 present a continuous three years war. How much time will be needed to conquer (to employ the expression of Von der Goltz) the modern Antæus and tear him from the earth, sending against him army after army? The impending struggle will not be decided by swift, heavy blows, but will be prolonged, it may be, even for years." Such is the opinion of the best German and French military specialists—war with Russia cannot be finished in one year, but will require several campaigns.

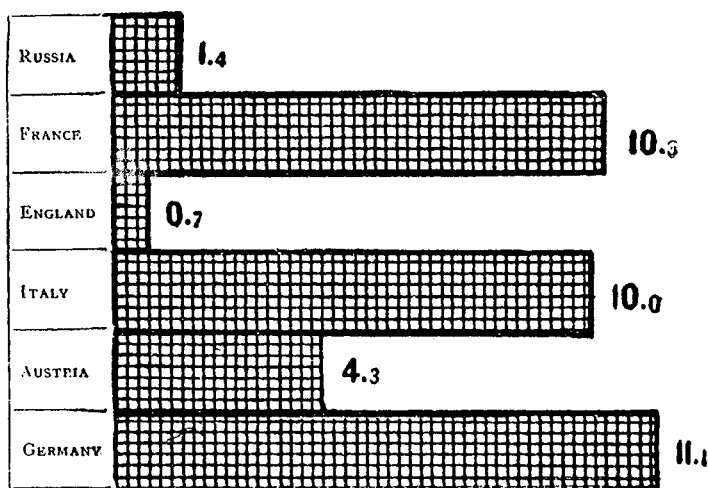
In the composition of the German army will be found the whole male population fit for service, from 17 to 45 inclusive. Considering that for agricultural labour the working age is between 15 and 65 years, it will be shown that 56 per cent. of the working class will be called under the flag. Even if we suppose that not all Germans liable to service will be employed in war, still if Germany proposes, as was announced by Caprivi, to carry on an offensive war on both frontiers, it will be necessary to withdraw from work such a quantity of working forces that the remaining population will not be able to accomplish a work which in times of peace occupies the whole working male population. For this reason alone production in time of war must be greatly diminished; the need for the import of food will grow; and the question of supply will become a hopeless one.

In addition to this insufficiency of workers, we may point also to the difficulty which will arise in the matter of horses. If we may believe the statistics given in *L'Année Militaire* in 1892 the demand for horses in the different states on mobilisation will be as shown in the following table:

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—	In Thousands.			From each Hundred Horses will be required for War Purposes :
	In Time of Peace Army holds	In Time of War will be required	Number of Horses in the Country.	
Russia .	160	340	25,000	1.36
France .	142	308	3,000	10.26
England .	15	14	2,000	0.70
Italy .	45	75	750	10.0
Austria .	77	173	4,000	4.32
Germany .	116	334	3,000	11.13

*Percentage of Horses which would be taken for Military Purposes.*



Of the 334,000 horses which will be required by Germany the majority will of course be taken from farmers. But this cannot fail to react injuriously on agriculture. It must not be forgotten that with the intense system of farming in Germany, fields never rest, one crop follows after another, and delay in working will undoubtedly cause

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difficulties unknown under the more primitive systems of farming. As is well known, a holiday is kept in Germany at the beginning of field labours, the so-named *Busstag* (day of prayer and penitence), and after this work is carried on through the whole summer without intermission on Sundays or holidays. In Germany, even under normal conditions, labour is so intensely utilised that to supply the labour of those serving with the army by working the remaining labourers on holidays is impossible.

In the German army will be found 38 per cent., in the French 42 per cent., and in the Austrian 49 per cent. of the total number of agriculturists. Even if we suppose that a certain proportion of factory labour will be diverted to agriculture, it is nevertheless unquestionable that the harvests in time of war will be sensibly diminished.

In Russia this question rests on an entirely different basis. There the absence of working agriculturists will be supplied more easily than elsewhere, for an important proportion of the peasants' land is held in common. It is easy to be an opponent of this system of agriculture and even to attribute to it the low condition of agriculture among the peasantry; but it must be acknowledged that the diversion to war of a great number of working hands will be borne much more easily under this system than under individual proprietorship. In general the land abandoned by the labourer who has been summoned under the flag will not remain wholly neglected. Without doubt it will be cultivated by the *Mir*, and the owner of the land on return will re-assume his former rights.

In addition to this, agriculture carried on on a low level will suffer less from the neglect and even from the absence of the owner than a more intense system. In the absence of a system of progressive improvement, the agriculturist on returning to his home may be assured that he will find his land in much the same state as he left it when summoned to the front. The workers in factories and in industries in Russia do not as a rule cease their connection with the



village community. On the stoppage of factory work at the outbreak of war they will return to their villages and devote themselves to agriculture. In addition, it may be noted that in Russia the number of holidays is so great that, if in time of war the supreme ecclesiastical authority permitted work upon holidays, this alone would compensate for the loss of working forces through the exigencies of war.

It must not be forgotten that out of the whole population between 20 and 50 years of age, the army (considering only attacking forces) will take in Germany 31 per cent. (3,000,000 men), in Austria 28 per cent., in France 47 per cent., while in Russia (3,500,000) it will take only 15 per cent. As Sundays constitute 15 per cent. of working time, then the lost contingent of working hands may be compensated for by Sunday labour alone, without trenching upon the immense number of holidays which are observed.

Upon survey of the facts and statistics above set forth it is impossible to avoid the following conclusions :

(1) The advantage rests on the side of those states who possess sufficient means of production and who in consequence will be in a condition to carry on a prolonged war without the danger of internal difficulties.

(2) In view of the prime importance of the feeding of the population, those states whose internal resources are deficient must see that crops have been got in before war breaks out, and only in extreme cases decide on war before harvests are over.

(3) It is most probable that war will break out when the harvest of the country which intends to take the initiative is above the average; with a bad harvest peace may be considered as guaranteed.

(4) The most serious indication of approaching war will be the feverish acquisition of provisions by those states which would be endangered by their deficient internal production.

(5) In time of war, and especially after it, the gravest popular commotions may appear in Western Europe.